

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 02941 201148Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 201010Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3638
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC FOR POLAD VIA POUCH

S E C R E T TAIPEI 2941

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TW, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN MAY 19, 1977

REF: TAIPEI 2940

1. FOLLOWING MY DISCUSSION REPORTED SEPTTEL WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN, HE SAID THAT HE HAD SOME ADDITIONAL, RELATED THOUGHTS TO CONVEY IN WRITING WHICH HE SUGGESTED I LOOK OVER AT MY LEISURE. ACCORDING TO SHEN, THESE THOUGHTS WHICH WERE RECORDED IN AN AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINED "NOTHING NEW" AND WERE INTENDED PRIMARILY TO UNDERLINE CERTAIN OF THE POINTS HE HAD MADE ORALLY. THE AIDE MEMOIRE, HE ADDED, MIGHT BE A USEFUL REMINDER TO NEW MEMBERS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BEFORE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THE SUBJECT OF US-CHINA POLICY. THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE IS CONTAINED IN SEPTTEL.

2. AFTER LEAVING SHEN I READ THE AIDE MEMOIRE AND DISCOVERED THAT IT DOES IN FACT COVER NEW GROUND AND CONTAINS THE SPECIFIC SUGGESTION THAT THE UNITED STATES MAKE A PRONOUNCEMENT "REAFFIRMING"

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THE POSITION OF "MAINTAINING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE ROC AND ABIDING BY THE COMMITMENTS UNDER THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY OF 1954." MOREOVER, THE AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINS IN ITS FINAL PARAGRAPH WHAT I READ TO BE A MISINTERPRETATION OF UNDER SECRETARY HABIB'S COMMENTS IN HIS DISCUSSION WITH AMBASSADOR SHEN AS REPORTED IN STATE 034897 (NOTAL).
IT IS MY INTENTION THEREFORE, UNLESS DEPARTMENT SEES OBJECTION,

TO CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER IN NEAR FUTURE TO INFORM HIM THAT
WHILE I HAVE REPORTED TO WASHINGTON IN FULL OUR CONVERSATION OF
MAY 19 AND THE TEXT OF THE AIDE MEMOIRE, I WOULD LIKE TO POINT
OUT TO HIM WITHOUT FURTHER DEALY THAT THE RECORD OF THE HABIB-SHEN
CONVERSATION OF FEBRUARY 14 WHICH I HAVE RECEIVED IS AT VARIANCE
WITH WHAT THE TEXT OFHIS AIDE MEMOIRE SUGGESTS. FOR THIS REASON
THERE COULD OF COURSE BE NO QUESTION OF "REAFFIRMING."

3. APART FROM THIS SPECIFIC AND IMPORTANT POINT I WOULD APPRECIATE
ANY COMMENTS OR OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WOULD WISH ME TO
CONVEY IN ANY LATER CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN WHICH
WOULD RELATE TO THE AIDE MEMOIRE AS WELL AS THE POINTS MADE BY
HIM ORALLY AND REPORTED SEPTEL.
UNGER

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NNN

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